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By:  Price H.R. No. 2133

R E S O L U T I O N

WHEREAS, The observance of Constitution Day on September 17, 2020, commemorates the signing of our nation's foundational document; and

WHEREAS, On September 17, 1787, the course of history was forever altered by the 39 delegates who added their names to the constitution, the world's oldest written national charter of government; it provided the framework for our republic, and its opening words, "We the People," affirmed that citizens hold the responsibility for determining the course of their country; and

WHEREAS, The framers of the constitution, in their great wisdom, separated and balanced governmental powers to safeguard the principles of majority rule and minority rights, the ideals of liberty and equality, and the interests of the federal and state governments; and

WHEREAS, Creating a republic representative form of government, the first three articles of the constitution established the separate legislative, executive, and judicial branches, each limited in power by a system of checks and balances; the 10 amendments known as the Bill of Rights were added two years after the signing of the constitution in order to guarantee specific civil liberties; and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Congress passed a bill in 2004 designating September 17 as Constitution Day and requiring that schools teach students about the vital role of the constitution in our society; the legislation prompts citizens to reflect upon the ideals of freedom set forth in the constitution and ensures that future generations will understand the importance of this historic document; and

WHEREAS, Since the 18th century, the United States Constitution has served as the bulwark of our liberty and as a model for the charter documents of emerging democracies around the world; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 86th Texas Legislature hereby recognize September 17, 2020, as Constitution Day and encourage all Texans to learn more about the many ways in which the U.S. Constitution continues to shape our lives.